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RULES and ORDERS

TO BE OBSERVED BY AN

EQUITABLE SOCIETY

FOR THE BENEFIT OF

S U R V I V O R S

AT THE EXPIRATION OF

T H R E E Y E A R S,

ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 6, 1786,

AT THE HOUSE OF

Mr. JOHN BUNYER,

The St. John's-Gate, St. John's-Square,

CLERKENWELL.

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To the PUBLIC.

WHEREAS it behoves every individual to improve their property by all lawful means, and as no single indifferent person can propose to themselves such advantages as may result from collective bodies, *We*, whose Names are here subscribed, have entered into an agreement to raise a Capital, by weekly contributions, to be divided between the surviving Members, at the expiration of Three Years, in such manner, and under such regulations, as shall be more clearly set forth and expressed hereafter. And finding it indispensably necessary, for the support and harmony of this Society, to make Rules and Orders, to be considered as Laws for the well governing the same, and to be strictly observed by us, and every one that becomes Members hereof have formed the following Articles.



RULES and ORDERS

TO BE OBSERVED BY AN

EQUITABLE SOCIETY.



IMPRIMIS.

THAT this Society be not confined to any number of members. That a book be kept open for the admission of such as chuse to enter therein for the space of twelve months, from the commencement of this society, at the following terms of admission, (as under) which entrance money shall be added to the stock of the said society, *viz.*

To

T O S T O C K .

	£.	s.	d.
From the commencement to the first quarterly night ——— }	0	0	0
The first quarterly night to the second ditto ——— }	0	0	6
The second quarterly night to the third ditto ——— }	0	1	6
The third quarterly night to the fourth ditto ——— }	0	2	6

II.

THAT persons of both sexes, all ages and denominations, shall be deemed eligible to become members of this society; but neither women or minors to have any concern in conducting the business thereof.

III.

THAT every member subscribe at least six-pence per week, and that every advancement over and above that sum be in no less proportion than six-pence each, to the end that there may be no fractions when the divisions comes to be made; any member may increase their subscription before the end of twelve months from the date of the commencement.

IV. THAT

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THAT for the greater encouragement of persons becoming members, it is not required that they should pay all arrears that may be due at their entrance, but by installments, till such arrears are fully satisfied.

V.

WILLIAM VILLEPIERRE is appointed secretary of this society, who shall enter the names and places of abode of every member, and the sum they subscribe; keep a clear and just account of the cash, and all other matters relating to the society, and be ready at all times to clear such accounts whenever called upon by the committee so to do. That every member admitted into this society shall pay to such secretary three-pence for entering their names, &c.; and that they likewise pay him three-pence per quarter from the commencement to the termination of this society. Such secretary shall continue in the said office for the full term of three years, he continuing faithful therein, nothing to the contrary appearing on inspecting the books; the judges and determiners of which shall be a committee summoned together for that purpose.

VI.

THAT the landlord shall receive the money collected on every meeting night, giving a receipt
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to the auditors for the time being, for the same in a book provided for that purpose.

VII.

FOR the greater security of the society, a box or desk be provided sufficient to contain the books and whatever else it may be found requisite to deposit therein; to which said box or desk shall be affixed three different locks, one key of which shall be kept by the secretary, one by the senior auditor, and the other by the landlord, in whose custody the box or desk is to be lodged, and he shall give sufficient security for the delivery of the same, with its contents, on every meeting night, or at any other time when demanded by the committee for the time being.

VIII.

VIII. That a committee be chosen in rotation, consisting of twenty-six members, five of whom shall be capable of transacting the business as directed; by these articles any thing extraordinary occurring, to be then determined by the whole committee summoned together for that purpose; every person neglecting to attend such summons shall forfeit sixpence to the stock, that for the greater propriety of procedure the five above-mentioned be marked in the following order. A president, two auditors, and two auditors assistants,

ants, likewise five deputy assistants, the president to be discretionally chosen; but out of the ten abovementioned, any one chose by the nine shall forfeit one shilling on refusal, the rest of the officers to serve as they stand on the committee list, these ten of the twenty-six committe men shall serve as their respective offices; the first set for four weeks, at the end of which time a new president to be chosen by the committee out of the ten for the four weeks ensuing, and always at the end of every four weeks as many to be taken on in rotation from the list of the committee as will make up the deficiency in number of them that go out of office; any of these ten neglecting to attend with the secretary by seven o'clock every meeting night, shall be subject to the following fines. The president one shilling, the auditors sixpence each, auditors assistants twopence each, and the secretary one shilling. The hours of meeting on every quarterly night shall be six o'clock, when for non-attendance all the above mentioned fines are to be doubled, in case any of the five, viz. president, auditors, or assistants should be absent on a meeting night, such persons present on the committee shall be chosen to take his or there place, or places for that evening, or on refusal so to do shall forfeit the same as such absentee does for non-attendance, all which fines are to be paid every quarterly night with the subscription money under the same restrictions, and to be spent on the third meeting night after every quarterly night, among such of the committee as
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chuse to attend such fines as may be due, when a new committee is coming in, shall be spent by the old committee, at the house in which this society is held, at what time they chuse to appoint after the second meeting of the new committee, each committee to continue for one year, against the expiration of which a new one to be chosen; any one refusing to serve when called upon in rotation, shall forfeit two shillings and six-pence to the stock for such refusal, and as all women and minors are entirely excused from serving any office, or taking any trouble in conducting the affairs of this society, it is therefore thought reasonable and finally agreed, that all such women and minors shall pay three-pence per quarter, exclusive of what they subscribe and pay to the secretary, quarterly, as mentioned in the fifth article, which three-pence shall be paid for the use of the committee, in consideration of the extraordinary trouble they will have in conducting the business thereof, but no money on any account whatever is to be taken from the stock, only for necessary books to keep the accounts of this society, printed bills, and orders, and whatever else may be thought absolutely necessary by the committee for the time being, for the well conducting this society, always observing, that all superfluities must be carefully avoided, and every thing that is purchased for the use of this society must be at the most reasonable rate. Should a vacancy happen among the committee by death or otherwise, another to be chose in rotation to supply his place for the remainder
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of the year, which shall stand the same as if he had served the whole year.

IX.

AS soon as the stock shall produce a capital of one hundred pounds, three trustees shall be chosen by the society, to place out the same in such manner as shall then be resolved on, they shall likewise receive such interest when due, as the stock may produce, and shall pay into the hands of the treasurer and auditors, on or before the fourth meeting night, they having a receipt for the same, such trustees refusing so to do, shall forfeit two shillings and six-pence to stock; and that each trustee is to receive such interest in rotation, as they stand in the Government books, without notice from the secretary.

X.

THE capital stock of this society be vested in Government security, and that all stock purchased by or for the use of the society, shall be in the name of such trustees as shall be so appointed.

XI.

IF any treasurer or trustee should embezzle, misapply, conceal, waste, or destroy any part of the joint stock, money, or securities belonging to the society, or shall refuse to transfer or restore
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the same, to such person or persons as the society shall appoint at a general meeting to receive the same, such treasurer or trustee shall for every offence forfeit double the sum that shall be embezzled, misapplied, or refused to be transferred, or restored, and be discharged from his or their office, neither shall he or they be entitled to receive any share or shares of the capital stock of this society, until the whole of such stock money, or securities, with lawful interest, be restored, together with all costs and damages, which the society have sustained on that account.

XII.

PROPER books be provided to keep the accounts of the society, in two of which shall be inserted the names and number of every person that pays, and the sums paid, on every Monday in each month, one of which shall be deposited in the box or desk, and the other shall be taken home by the secretary, that in case any accident should happen by fire or otherwise, that the accounts of this society may be kept secure.

XIII.

ANY member selling or transferring their share or shares, shall be excluded the society; but if a member should leave the kingdom, or otherwise be absent, may empower any person to continue their subscription, till the expiration of three years,

years, such member must personally appear, and prove their identity, within eighteen calendar months next ensuing the said term of three years, to the satisfaction of the committee, or send undeniable proof thereof, or they shall forfeit what they have paid, to such as were members at the conclusion of the society, or their representatives; which members shall be gathered together by public advertisement, and shall give in their names within fourteen days from the date of such advertisement, the treasurer and committee to take an account of the same; if sufficient proof be brought that any member (abroad) was living at the end of three years, but died afterwards, the heirs, executors, or assigns of such deceased member to receive his or her dividend of the stock, provided the book was cleared to the expiration of three years.

XIV.

THIS society date their commencement from the 6th day of February, 1786, and the first Monday in May, August, November and February, be accounted the four quarterly meeting nights, on which nights the books must be cleared of every demand, whether forfeits or otherwise, all which is intended for the sole benefit of the society, except such fines of the committee as is mentioned in the eighth article; any deficiencies thereof, not made good on such quarterly nights, such member shall forfeit the sum of six-pence
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to the stock, and if not paid within fourteen days preceding such quarterly night, shall be excluded; provided that such member have notice by the most convenient method delivered at the place of abode of such member, according to the direction that then appears on the register-book, paying the expence of such notice, in neglect of which no member shall be excluded, and the secretary, for such neglect, shall forfeit one shilling; nor must it at any time be urged that this article in any wise tends to destroy the indulgence given in the fourth article; but if such double payments there mentioned are duly complied with, that must in every respect be understood as clearing the books.

XV.

EVERY member may bring or send their money to the house of Mr. *John Bunyer*, the *Saint John's Gate, Saint John's Square*, on every monday evening at seven o'clock, quarterly nights at six, to the full end and term of three years from the commencement, where the committee for the time being, and the secretary, will attend to receive the same. Any member making any disturbance, whereby to interrupt the business of this society, shall forfeit one shilling or be excluded.

XVI.

IF any member shall hereafter change their place of abode, they shall cause the same to be known

known by the secretary within one month after such removal or forfeit six-pence; and that no member may plead ignorance of the foregoing articles, every member, on subscribing, shall have a book of the articles delivered to him, on paying three-pence for the same.

XVII.

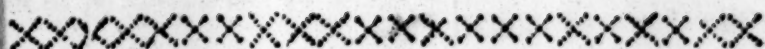
THE heir, executor, &c. of any member, cannot have any claims on the stock of this society unless sufficient proofs be given of the members being living at the expiration of three years, as mentioned in the thirteenth article, it being intended for such members as shall survive to the end and term of three years from the commencement, at the expiration of which period all the capital stock of this society, and the interest which may be due on the same, shall be collected together, and divided within fourteen days after the said three years are expired, in an equal manner as the several subscriptions of the members shall entitle them to. Should any member, clear on the book be absent, as in the thirteenth article, such members share to remain in the hands of the treasurers; and in order to prevent any impositions from happening at the time such division is made, any person not known, or appearing doubtful, shall be obliged to prove the identity of their persons, and justice of their claims, either by certificates, or such vouchers, as shall be satisfactory to the committee at that time; the last committee
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must serve till the money is divided, except as in the thirteenth article.

XVIII.

THESE articles to be in full force from the date hereof, during the full term of three years from thence next ensuing, except any thing occur more for the benefit of the society, as may be deemed eligible by a committee, summoned of twenty-six members, which shall be binding to the society, whereof we have severally and respectively subscribed to.

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FINES and PENALTIES,

To be paid by the several Members belonging
to this Society.

	s.	d.
EVERY member refusing to serve on the committee. Art. 8.	2	6
Every member neglecting to clear the book on quarterly nights. Art. 4.	0	6
Every member not giving notice within one month of their removal. Art. 16.	0	6
Every member neglecting to obey the secre- tary's summons. Art. 8.	0	6
Every member disturbing the society. Art. 15.	1	0
Secretary neglecting to summons every mem- ber. Art. 14.	1	0

All which fines paid to the stock of the society.

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LIST OF FINES,

To be spent among the Committee, as mentioned
in Article VIII.

NON-attendance of president by seven	s.	d.
o'clock on Monday night	1	0
The treasurers each	1	0
Auditors	0	6
Deputy assistants	0	2
Secretary	1	0

N, B. The time of meeting on quarterly nights
is six o'clock, by which time if the above mentioned
persons be not present, all the fines are to be
doubled.

The secretary receives from every member on quarterly night. Art. 5.	0	3
For every notice of neglect. Art. 14.	0	1
All women and minors, every quarter. Art. 8.	0	3

N. B. It is desired that every member will care-
fully attend to the 14th Article.

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